AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the present application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging element,

plural optical systems having different focal lengths,

a variable-transmittance element, and

a reflective optical element consisting essentially of a reflective surface that is fixedly positioned,

wherein a focal length of the imaging apparatus in its entirety is changed by controlling transmittance of the variable-transmittance element, and wherein the variable-transmittance element is free from any portion that is mechanically displaced in a photographing action.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging element,

an optical system comprising a lens having locally different focal lengths, and

a variable-transmittance element,

wherein a focal length of the optical system in its entirety is changed by locally changing transmittance of the variable-transmittance element.

4. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein each of the plural optical systems is arranged to be used with the imaging element, and

a center of an imaging area of the imaging element is substantially aligned with optical axes of the plural optical systems.

5. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the imaging apparatus has at least one optical element equipped with reflective function and variable-transmittance function.

6. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the imaging apparatus has at least one optical element with reflective function, and

wherein the at least one optical element with the reflective function is configured so that an amount of light transmitted therethrough and an amount of light reflected therefrom are substantially equal.

7. (Canceled).

8. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the plural optical systems and the variable-transmittance element are arranged closely.

9. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein two or more variable-transmittance elements are arranged along a single path of rays.

10. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the variable-transmittance element is arranged concurrently at a position of an aperture stop of the optical system.

11. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the variable-transmittance element has a transmittance distribution.

12. (Canceled).

13. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein a body frame for holding the optical system and a body frame for holding the variable-transmittance element are constructed independent of one another.

14. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein at least two optical systems out of the plural optical systems are arranged side by side, and

a shading member is disposed between the two optical systems.

15. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the variable-transmittance element comprises an electrochromic material.

16. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus ~~according to claim 1, further~~ comprising:

an imaging element,

plural optical systems having different focal lengths,

a variable-transmittance element,

a reflective optical element consisting essentially of a reflective surface that is fixedly positioned,

a display part for checking a photographing state,

an operation part for choosing a desired focal length,

a control part for controlling ~~the~~ transmittance of the variable-transmittance element using a signal generated from the operation part, and

a power supply part for supplying electric power to the variable-transmittance element and the control part,

wherein a focal length of the imaging apparatus in its entirety is changed by controlling the transmittance of the variable-transmittance element.

17. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a sensor part for checking a state of a photographing object,

an operation processing part for recognizing a photographing object with a signal from the sensor part,

a transmittance control device for driving the variable-transmittance element,

a power supply part for operating the transmittance control device, and

a control part for controlling the transmittance of the variable-transmittance element using a signal generated from the operation part.

18. (Previously Presented) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the transmittance of the variable-transmittance element, which has been controlled for a photographing action, is reset to an initial state after the photographing action is completed.

19. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein at least one of the optical systems comprises, in order from an object side, a first lens group with negative power and a second lens group with positive power.

20. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein at least one of the optical systems comprises at least one negative lens and at least one positive lens, and the negative lens is arranged utmost to the object side.

21. (Withdrawn) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein one of the plural optical systems is constructed as a telephoto lens and another of the plural optical systems is constructed as a wide angle lens, and the following condition is satisfied:

$$1.9 < fT/fW$$

where fT is a focal length of the telephoto lens, and fW is a focal length of the wide angle lens.

22. (Withdrawn) A cellular phone which is equipped with the imaging apparatus according to claim 1.

23. (Currently Amended) A ~~mobile article~~ moving vehicle equipped with the imaging apparatus according to claim 1.

24. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein the imaging apparatus has plural reflective surfaces, and one of the reflective surfaces has reflective function and another of the reflective surfaces has another reflective function and transmitting function.

25. (Currently Amended) An imaging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the variable-transmittance element comprises a ~~LCD~~ liquid crystal element (LCD).